Number of Persons Caught

Storm of Crime Probes

By BILL LYNCH
(States-Item Bureau)

BATON ROUGE — Assassinations, organized crime, bribery, labor racketeering and bombings have stirred a maelstrom of investigations in Louisiana that has no end in sight.

Three grand juries, a new state investigative agency, the state police and a private anti-crime group are expanding the circles of inquiry in all directions.

The scope and number of people caught up in the various probes is beginning to approach the astronomical.

It takes a jigsaw puzzle expert to put the pieces together and a score card to figure out who all is involved in this five-ring drama.

Somehow all of the events and many of the people are interconnected.

The overlapping investigations may be broken down into five categories:

1. **The Kennedy assassination probe.**
2. **Organized crime in Louisiana.**
3. **The Partin-Hoffa attempted bribery scheme.**
4. **Labor-management racketeering in Baton Rouge.**
5. **Unsolved bombings in Baton Rouge.**

In the most widely publicized investigation, New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison claims President Kennedy was the victim of a plot that had its origins among certain Cuban elements in New Orleans.

Life Magazine claimed that organized crime flourishes in Louisiana in a series of articles on national vice operations by the Cosa Nostra, and Gov. John McKeithen now agrees the charge is true.

Baton Rouge Teamster boss Edward Grady Partin, whose testimony sent International Teamster President James Hoffa to a federal prison, claimed

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Up in Investigations Soars

Sweeps Across Louisiana

he was offered a million dollars to alter his testimony.

CLAIMS OF shootings, shakedowns and sweetheart contracts culminated in a two-month shutdown of industrial construction in the Baton Rouge area and a labor-management crisis that threatened the state's industrial development program.

A series of unsolved bombings with labor and racial overtones was capped by the attempted dynamiting of the home of State AFL-CIO President Victor Bussie in July.

All of these investigations are intertwined in some degree.

The investigators are:

—The Orleans Parish grand jury, which is investigating the Kennedy assassination plot and organized crime.

The East Baton Rouge grand jury, which is looking into organized crime, a portion of the Partin-Hoffa bribery affair, and the unsolved bombings.

—A federal grand jury, which is examining the Partin-Hoffa bribery charge.

—The labor-management board of inquiry, created at a special session of the Legislature to deal with a mounting labor crisis. The commission was armed with a $250,000 appropriation and an elite investigative staff that also doubles as an intelligence unit for the state police. They are involved in both the labor problems and the bombing case.

—The Metropolitan Crime Commission, the private agency whose information led to part of the Life Magazine series. The MCC also is at odds with Garrison over his methods in the Kennedy probe and over his attitude on organized crime.

Thus far the investigations have resulted in:

1. The indictment of Clay Shaw, New Orleans

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Crime Probes Sweep Across Louisiana

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businessman, on a charge of conspiracy in the assassination.

2. The conviction of Dean Andrews Jr., Jefferson attorney, on perjury in the assassination case.

3. The indictment of D'Alton Smith, former New Orleans **electrical contractor, on public bribery for allegedly offering $25,000 to ex-governor's aide Aubrey Young to arrange a meeting in the Partin-Hoffa affair.**

4. The initiation of removal proceedings against New Orleans Criminal Court Judge Malcolm O'Hara in the Partin-Hoffa case. The MCC, the New Orleans Bar Association, and Gov. McKeithen brought the proceedings following testimony by O'Hara at a hearing for Hoffa that he was the companion and friend of a convicted felon.

5. The arrest of Jules Kimble, self-described former Ku Klux Klan official, who blamed the Bussie bombing on the KKK. Kimble, who says the plot was hatched in his home, is awaiting an appearance before the Baton Rouge grand jury.

6. The suspension of Capt. Roland Coppola by the state police pending an investigation into his relationship with underworld figures.

Although the Kennedy probe has received the most national attention, Gov. McKeithen has been more alarmed over the organized crime and labor racketeering charges. The state's and his image were badly battered by disclosures of gambling and prostitution in Life.

Worse, the industrial development program was threatened by the possibility of industry looking for a more favorable climate elsewhere.

Closed-door hearings are planned later this month on the labor-management situation by the board of inquiry. Open sessions may begin in November.

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Sargent Pitcher is playing his cards close on the probes being conducted by his grand jury. Without being specific, however, he does say many more persons are involved than have been named so far.

POSSIBILITY OF holding the Clay Shaw trial this year have dimmed considerably as attorneys for the defendant apply for a delay or change of venue.

Baton Rouge officials have a long way to go before bringing Smith to trial on the public bribery charge. He's still free on $1,500 fugitive bond posted in Denton, Tex.

The Bussie bombing case may rest with whatever decision the grand jury in Baton Rouge makes. Kimble already has named names, dates and places to police officials, but they apparently will leave his credibility up to the grand jury.

The cast of characters in the arena of investigations is long and steadily growing longer. Here are a few of some of the other principals and lesser involved persons:

Carlos Marcello — who (according to Life) was assigned the task of getting Hoffa out of jail.

SEN. ROBERT F. Kennedy — a keen interest in the final outcome of the assassination probe and the man who pursued Hoffa with more than passing interest while he was U. S. attorney general.

Walter Sheridan — television network reporter who provided much of the anti-Garrison information, friend of RFK, and who became involved in the Partin-Hoffa case.

Gordon Novel — the elusive former New Orleans bartender who claims Garrison's investigation is a hoax and that he has information of a sensational nature of organized crime. He is wanted by Garrison in the murder plot and also is charged with conspiracy to commit burglary but has managed to avert extradition from Ohio.

Perry Russo — Garrison's star witness against Shaw.

And, of course, there are Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and David Ferrie. But they're dead.